



## Cyclone disaster vulnerability and response experiences in coastal Bangladesh

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### Abstract:

For generations, cyclones and tidal surges have frequently devastated lives and property in coastal and island Bangladesh. This study explores vulnerability to cyclone hazards using first-hand coping recollections from prior to, during and after these events. Qualitative field data suggest that, beyond extreme cyclone forces, localised vulnerability is defined in terms of response processes, infrastructure, socially uneven exposure, settlement development patterns, and livelihoods. Prior to cyclones, religious activities increase and people try to save food and valuable possessions. Those in dispersed settlements who fail to reach cyclone shelters take refuge in thatched-roof houses and big-branch trees. However, women and children are affected more despite the modification of traditional hierarchies during cyclone periods. Instinctive survival strategies and intra-community cooperation improve coping post cyclone. This study recommends that disaster reduction programmes encourage cyclone mitigation while being aware of localised realities, endogenous risk analyses, and coping and adaptation of affected communities (as active survivors rather than helpless victims).

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7717.2010.01176.x>

### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public

#### Early Warning System: ☒

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure : ☒

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weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

**Extreme Weather Event:** Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones

**Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

**Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Asia

**Asian Region/Country:** Other Asian Country

**Other Asian Country:** Bangladesh

**Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

**Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury

**Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

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**Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status, Pregnant Women

**Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

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Research Article

## **Resilience:**

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content